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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re App	lication of:)	
11		:	Examiner: Lin Ye
Yoshinobu SHIRAIWA, et al.)	
		:	Group Art Unit: 2615
Application No.: 09/697,315)	
		:	Confirmation No. 7562
Filed:	October 27, 2000)	
		:	
For:	IMAGE PROCESSING)	March 24, 2006
	APPARATUS AND METHOD	:	
)	

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Sir:

Introductory Comments

In response to the Official Action mailed December 29, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows: